I. AMENDMENT

Amendment of the Specification

Please delete the paragraph immediately following the title that was inserted pursuant to the preliminary amendment filed September 12, 2001, and replace it with the following captioned paragraph:

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RELATED APPLICATIONS

Priority is claimed to International Patent Application No. PCT/US00/06111, filed March 10, 2000, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/124,006, filed March 12, 1999.

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Please re-write the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 10, as follows:

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Fig. 9: The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NO: ~~4~~ 5) of a matriptase cDNA clone. The primers (20 bases at the 5'-end and 18 bases at the 3'- end) used for reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction are underlined. Thirty-three bases beyond the 5'-end primer and 92 bases beyond the 3'-end primer were taken from SNC19 cDNA and incorporated. The cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: ~~5~~ 4) was translated from the fifth ATG codon in the open reading frame. Nucleotide and amino acid numbers are shown on the left. Sequences that agreed with the internal sequences obtained from matriptase are double-underlined. His-484, Asp-539, and Ser-633 are boxed and indicated the putative catalytic triad of matriptase. Potential N-glycosylation sites are indicated (Δ). An RGD sequence is indicated (♠).

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Please re-write the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 1, as follows:

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By "epitope" is meant a region on an antigen molecule (*e.g.*, matriptase) to which an antibody or an ~~immunogenic~~ immunologically reactive fragment thereof binds specifically. The epitope can be a three dimensional epitope formed from residues on different regions of a protein antigen molecule, which, in a native state, are closely apposed due to protein folding. "Epitope" as used herein can also mean an epitope created by a peptide or hapten portion of matriptase and not a three dimensional epitope.

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